Links to Utah's Virtual & Blended Teaching and Learning Tools

UPSTART Home-based online kindergarten readiness program

I was scheduled to present at SXSW in Austin TX in March 2020 but it became the first major conference in the US to be cancelled because of COVID 19. As you know, they instead held a virtual conference. Here is the YouTube Link to my SXSW 20 minute presentation, "Family Engagement to Close the Achievement Gap," UPSTART kindergarten readiness:

https://youtu.be/9Quep-CdcpU

This UPSTART TED Talk describes the phenomenal results of Utah's UPSTART Program and why it was designated by TED Global as one of 8 Audacious Ideas that Can Change the World.

Claudia Miner: A new way to get every child ready for kindergarten
https://www.ted.com/talks/claudia_miner_a_new_way_to_get_every_child_ready_for_kindergarten

STEM Action Center Math Software Program

The math software, provided for schools through the STEM Action Center, enables students to receive immediate, interactive, adaptive feedback while working math problems instead of crying over their math homework not knowing if they got it right and turning it in the next day to receive red marks on it.

https://stem.utah.gov/educators/opportunities/k-12-math-personalized-learning-software-grant/

Statewide Online Education Program

The 2011 Utah Legislature enacted the SOEP to enable all high school students whether public, private or home schooled (Grades 9-12) to take up to 6 credit courses online from providers meeting state standards, giving students the ability to tailor their class schedule for their unique career and college pathways, not limited by their school of attendance. In 2021 this was expanded to grades 7 & 8

https://le.utah.gov/xcode/Title53F/Chapter4/53F-4-P5.html

Utah Statewide Digital Teaching & Learning Masterplan

Much of Utah's Success in achieving improved student growth was due to the nation's first Statewide Digital and Teaching Masterplan which includes a qualified grant program. The major result of its implementation was providing the leadership and professional learning for teachers and instructional leaders to use software more effectively. This was a big reason Utah hit the ground running with the COVID school closures and why State Superintendent Sydnee Dickson was contacted by so many state chiefs asking how Utah did so well under COVID.

The web link starts with the Overview which provides a link to the Masterplan. The "Software Initiatives" menu describes the EISP Reading Software, UPSTART, and the English Learner Software Initiative.

https://schools.utah.gov/curr/digital?mid=4332&tid=0

This link shows the most recent evaluation of the Digital Teaching & Learning Grant Program:

https://dtlutah.org/uploads/files/39.pdf

Stanford Interactive Report on School Effectiveness

The Stanford Interactive Report on School Effectiveness shows Utah students to have higher than average test scores, faster learning rates, and test scores improving over time. Overall Utah is higher than all but two states.

https://edopportunity.org/explorer/#/map/none/states/grd/ses/all/5.92/39.54/-111.55/4900270,38.985,-110.813+49,39.101,-111.949

If you click on the map of each state you get a pull down summary of scores, growth in scores and learning rate which can be disaggregated. The tools also allow you to drill down into specific schools in each state and compare them.

Utah Data on COVID Pandemic Learning Loss

Exploring the effects of the pandemic on Utah Student Achievement: (full report)
https://schools.utah.gov/file/45c7eabe-05a3-45d3-99e1-d2e8d700d503

(executive report) https://schools.utah.gov/file/b3c018ec-ccbb-4565-8199-248646c79524

The "Opportunity to Learn Data" explores the impact of the pandemic on student experience:
https://public.tableau.com/app/profile/data.and.statistics/viz/OpportunityToLearnPreviewDemographicPublic2021-07-28/OpportunitytoLearnDashboard

Additional resources can be found on USBE's Coronavirus Webpage at:
https://schools.utah.gov/coronavirus?mid=4985&aid=3

McKinsey & Company National Analysis of Pandemic Learning Losses
https://www.mckinsey.com/industries/education/our-insights/covid-19-and-education-the-lingering-effects-of-unfinished-learning

ECS Frank Newman Award for Innovation in Education

Education Commission of the States honors Utah with the 2021 Frank Newman Award for State Innovation, in recognition of its commitment to expanding digital learning across the state.

https://www.ecs.org/wp-content/uploads/2021-Frank-Newman-Award-for-State-Innovation.pdf#:~:text=The%20Frank%20Newman%20Award%20for%20State%20Innovation%20is,recognizes%20a%20for-profit%20corporation%2C%20nonprofit%20organization%20or%20foundation

SETDA State Policymaker of the Year Award

Utah was positioned to quickly and effectively transition to remote learning thanks to many years of preparation and leadership from Dr. Sydnee Dickson. In 2015, the Utah state legislature called for the development of a master plan to improve classroom technology use. Under the direction of Dr. Dickson, a team of stakeholders created Utah's Essential Elements for Technology Powered Learning. In the plan, Utah identified several components of effective technology integration and proposed a statewide DTL grant necessary for implementation, which became codified into law.

https://www.setda.org/news/awards/policymaker/